

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OES-03 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OC-05 CCO-00 SY-05 AID-05 OMB-01 OPR-02

A-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 IGA-01 ST-01 ABF-01

FS-01 /087 W

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P 211305Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7455

NASA HQ WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 1283

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NASA, MA, US

SUBJECT: CLOSURE OF NASA STATION: STATUS REPORT NO. 1

REF: A. STATE 170083; B. TANANARIVE 1251

SUMMARY: EMBASSY AND NASA DIRECTOR HAVE REVIEWED REFTTEL A. CHARGE PLANS MEETING AT FOREIGN OFFICE JULY 21. NO NASA PERSONNEL WERE PERMITTED ENTRY TO THE STATION JULY 21 BUT PROBABLY BECAUSE GENDARMES HAD NOT RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS. ENB SUMMARY.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF OF NASA WHO WERE TO CONTINUE TO WORK ON PAYROLL ON JULY 21 WERE DENIED ACCESS TO STATION BY GENDARMES AND TROOPS ON MORNING OF JULY 21. GENDARMES SAID THEY HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY INSTRUCTIONS TO LET PEOPLE ENTER THE STATION. CHARGE ATTEMPTED TO CONTACT CHIEF OF CABINET SOLOFSON WHO PROVED TO BE UNAVAILABLE AND CHARGE WAS REFERRED TO FOREIGN OFFICE WHERE APPOINTMENT IS PENDING.

2. STATION IS STILL OCCUPIED BY 200 MALAGASY TROOPS PLUS GENDARMES. TROOPS HAVE NOT ENTERED ANY BUILDINGS AND ARE NOT  
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USING ANY STWLKU FACILITY. THEY HAVE PITCHED TENTS AND

ARE OPERATING A FIELD KITCHEN.

3. WHEN EMPLOYEES, BOTH U.S. AND MALAGASY, ENTERED STATION ON JULY 18 MOVEMENT ON STATION WAS VERY HIGHLY RESTRICTED. FOR EXAMPLE, ONLY ONE PERSON WAS PERMITTED TO ENTER A BUILDING AT A TIME AND PERSONNEL WERE NOT PERMITTED TO MOVE FROM ONE BUILDING TO ANOTHER WITHOUT AN ESCORT. STATION MANAGER ATTEMPTED TO GET TELEPHONE SWITCHBOARD BACK IN OPERATION, FOR EXAMPLE, SBUT THIS WAS DENIED. GENDARMES SAID THEY HAD INSTRUCTIONS ONLY TO PERMIT REMOVAL OF PERSONAL EFFECTS.

4. TROOPS AND GENDARMES ARE GENERALLY CORRECT IN THEIR BEHAVIOR BUT SLOPPY WEAPONS HANDLING BY MALAGASY TROOPS WAS DISTURBING. ONE U.S. EMPLOYEE AFTER WAITING TO GET INTO STATION FOR SOME TIME BECAME SO UNCOMFORTABLE HE SIMPLY RETURNED HOME. WHILE FULL TEXT OF DOCUMENTS EMPLOYEES WERE ASKED TO SIGN NOT YET OBTAINED, TEXT WAS REVIEWED BEFORE SIGNATURE BY MALAGASY EMPLOYEES OF STATION WHO INDICATED DOCUMENT WAS SIGNED RECEIPT FOR PERSONAL EFFECTS.

5. EMBASSY AND NASA DIRECTOR BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO LOOSEN UP RESTRICTIONS ON STATION BOTH TO PERMIT EFFICIENT OPERATION AND TO PERMIT BOTH MALAGASY AND AMERICANS TO RELAX SOMEWHAT.

6. NASA PLANS TO REMOVE ALL EQUIPMENT THAT CAN BE USED ELSEWHERE IN NETWORK DOES NOT PARTICULARLY DISTURB EMBASSY IN POLITICAL SENSE SINCE SUGGESTION THAT NASA WOULD LEAVE SOME EQUIPMENT WAS MADE AD REFERENDUM AND BASED ON PRACTICAL CONSIDERATION OF COST OF MOVING LOW VALUE ITEMS. IT WOULD STILL BE USEFUL, HOWEVER, IN TERMS OF POSITIVE GESTURE TO GOMR TO BE ABLE TO MENTION TO THEM FROM TIME TO TIME ITEMS THAT WILL BE LEFT.

7. EMBASSY IS PREPARING AIDE MEMOIRE FOR FOREIGN OFFICE SETTING OUT IN DETAIL THOSE STEPS NASA DIRECTOR REQUESTS BE IMPLEMENTED TO PERMIT CLOSING OPERATIONS TO COMMENCE. TEXT OF AIDE MEMOIRE WILL BE FORWARDED IN SUBSEQUENT MESSAGE. NASA DIRECTOR AND BENDIX MANAGER ARE REVIEWING QZDESTIODS POSED REFTTEL A CONCERNING LOGISTICS, COSTS, ETC. SOME PRELIMINARY CONFIDENTIAL

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LOGISTICS AND COST DATA THAT MAY BE USEFUL TO NASA BASED ON RECENT EMBASSY EXPERIENCE IS AS FOLLOWS:

A. EMBASSY CONTACTED LOCAL FIRM WHICH IS THE PRIME IMPORTER OF U.S. EARTH MOVING AND MHE EQUIPMENT IN MADAGASCAR. THEIR COST IN TRNASPORTING EQUIPMENT TO MADAGASCAR IS AVERAGING BETWEEOD 30-40 PERCENT OF COST IF GOODS ARE TRANSSHPPED VIA DURBAN. HOWEVER, IF A DIRECT SAILING IS ARRANGED TO MAJUNGA TRANSPOR-

TATION COSTS ARE 25 PERCENT LESS OR 22-30 PERCENT OF COST.

B. THE ABOVE COST ESTIMATES ARE NOT CONSISTENT WITH CURRENT BILLINGS TO EMBASSY FOR SHIPMENT OF FURNITURE PURCHASED IN U.S. COST TO SHIP FROM U.S. - INCLUDING INLAND TRANSPORTATION, EXPORT PACKING AND PORT FEES - ARE RUNNING ABOUT 140 PERCENT OF ITEM COST. ALL GOODS COMING FROM THE U.S. MUST, HOWEVER, BE TRANSSHIPPED VIA DURBAN. (IN JUNE 1974 POST ORDERED FURNITURE COSTING \$13,940. FREIGHT COSTS PER FS 477 DATED 5/23/75 WERE \$19,863.66. INLAND CHARGES WERE AN ADDITIONAL \$1000.

8. 13 NASA VEHICLES ARE IN TAMATAVE AS INDICATED REFTTEL B. ELFERS

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## Message Attributes

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